



Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program

Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife
Route 135, Westborough, MA 01581
tel: (508) 389-6360; fax: (508) 389-7891

www.nhesp.org

Orange Sallow Moth

Rhodoecia aurantiago

State Status: **Threatened**

Federal Status: None

Description: The Orange Sallow is a noctuid moth with orange forewings spotted with black, the wing margins pink in the male; the hind wings are tan, the wing margins shaded with pink in both sexes. Wingspan is 24-28 mm.

Habitat: The Orange Sallow Moth inhabits xeric and open oak woodland on rocky uplands (ridges, hilltops, and steep slopes), and the edges of old fields, powerline cuts, and other openings within such habitat.

Life History: Adult moths fly in August. Eggs hatch soon after they are laid, and larvae feed on the flowers, seeds, and foliage of false foxgloves (*Aureolaria*) through early October. Pupae overwinter and diapause through the following spring and summer.

Range: The Orange Sallow Moth is spottily distributed from southern New England south to Florida, west to Wisconsin and Missouri. In Massachusetts this species occurs in scattered colonies from Boston west to the Berkshires, but is absent from the southeast coastal plain.

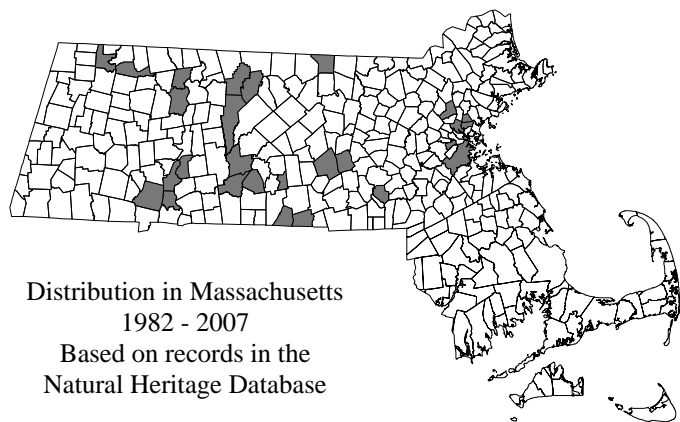


Photo by M.W. Nelson

Adult Flight Period in Massachusetts

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec

Threats

- Habitat loss
- Fire suppression
- Invasion by exotic plants
- Introduced generalist parasitoids
- Insecticide spraying
- Clearcut timber harvest
- Excessive deer browsing of larval host plants
- Off-road vehicles
- Light pollution